



Ford's Theatre Media Contact:
Lauren Beyea
Associate Director of Communications and Marketing
(202) 434-9543 press@fords.org

Ford's Theatre
511 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004
www.fords.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2021

FORD'S THEATRE SOCIETY PRESENTS
Cabinet Conversation: Black Voices in American Theatre
with
Ford's Theatre Senior Artistic Advisor Sheldon Epps and
Actor Erik King
February 25, 2021

Cabinet Conversation: Lincoln and Leadership
with
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis,
Former U.S. Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson and
Philanthropist David M. Rubenstein
March 4, 2021

Cabinet Conversation: Black Women Leading the Change
Pioneers from the Civil War to Today
with
Tamika Y. Nunley and Martha S. Jones
March 18, 2021

**Live virtual events are simulcast via Ford's Theatre Facebook Live, YouTube,
Twitter and website at 4:00 p.m. EST**

Washington, D.C.—Ford's Theatre Society announced confirmed speakers for upcoming livestreamed *Cabinet Conversations* events, live discussions with scholars, artists and other thought leaders about history, civics and the future of the arts. Each 50-minute conversation includes viewer Q&A, and connects lessons of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln's presidency and legacy to contemporary life. All events are simulcast at 4:00 p.m. EST on the Ford's Theatre website, Facebook Live, Twitter and YouTube channels.

On February 25, **Ford's Theatre Senior Artistic Advisor Sheldon Epps and actor Erik King** (Showtime's *Dexter*; Ford's *Twelve Angry Men*) discuss the triumphs and challenges they face as Black men in the theatre industry and provide guidance for aspiring artists.

On March 4, **David Rubenstein** moderates a discussion with **former U.S. Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis and former U.S. Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson** about principals of effective leadership, and what we can learn from Abraham Lincoln today.

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On March 18, professors and historians **Tamika Y. Nunley** (upcoming book: *At the Threshold of Liberty: Women, Slavery, and Self-making in Washington, D.C.*) and **Martha S. Jones** (*Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All*) lead a discussion on Black women who have pioneered and been at the center of social and political movements from the Civil War Era, suffrage and today.

Cabinet Conversations feature live discussions with scholars, artists and other thought leaders about history, civics and the future of the arts. A full archive of *Cabinet Conversations* events is posted online at <https://www.fords.org/visit/virtual-events-and-special-tours/cabinet-conversations>.

Ford's Theatre Society

One of the most visited sites in the nation's capital, Ford's Theatre reopened its doors in 1968, more than a hundred years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Operated through a partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service, Ford's Theatre is the premier destination in the nation's capital to explore and celebrate Abraham Lincoln's ideals and leadership principles: courage, integrity, tolerance, equality and creative expression.

Ford's Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer **Frankie Hewitt**, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford's as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of **Paul R. Tetreault** as Director, critics and the theatregoing public have recognized Ford's for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. In the past decade, the mission of Ford's Theatre Society expanded to include education as a central pillar. This expansion led to the creation and construction of the Center for Education and Leadership, which opened in February 2012. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman **Phebe N. Novakovic** and through the lens of Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's today endeavors to advance Lincoln's "unfinished work" with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in our American life.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit www.fords.org.

Event Hashtags:

**#CabinetConversations #FordsFromHome
#LincolnLeadership #LincolnLegacy**

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